

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
विश्व अकादमी
के लिए

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of light.

Siddhartha was born in a royal family. He had all the luxuries. But when he went outside, he saw the sufferings in world. This brought tectonic shift in his life. And, ultimately birth of Buddhism. Imagine, if Buddha was afraid of light. If he didn't go outside. This would have been a tragedy for entire world.

In this essay we will try to understand meaning of darkness for a child. Also, the meaning of light for men. We will then understand why it

is a tragedy if people are afraid of light. And why we can easily forgive a child. Also we will understand the importance of light and how to bring light in life.

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

For
Only
Use
Pen
No.
पत्रा
संख्या

Darkness for a child can be fear of failure in exams. It could mean fear of getting punished on doing some mistakes. It could be fear of parents after being disobedient to them. It may also mean fear of hard work and giving up enjoyment.

For a man light has multiple interpretations. Light could mean doing self introspection, journal writing. It could mean accepting criticisms of other. It may mean strong accountability framework in a governance.

For example RTI, social audit could be light for governance. It is not right if men do not embrace light in their lives.

When men are afraid of light, they do not accept the

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
Not to be
in file

opinion of others. Lack of acceptance of opinion lead to stagnation in lives. This ultimately leads to their own decline. For example Nokia was the largest phone manufacturer in early 2000s. But it did not see the tectonic changes in the way mobile was changing. This ultimately caused its decline. It shows how being afraid of light is tragedy.

Tragedy is also because, a person is only afraid of light if he is unethical in some way or the other. An unethical person tries to hide from light. To illustrate people are afraid from tax authorities because they indulge in tax evasive practices. Lack of ethics/honesty in people is real tragedy of life.

When people are afraid of light, means they continue to follow

Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

UPSC

old practices. They continue to follow those customs which are no more relevant. Customs like patriarchy are still being practised in families which do not want to see modern ideas of women empowerment. This is a real tragedy not only for women but for entire society.

Society also suffers from absolute power in hand of administrators. It is said 'power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely'. When an administrator wants absolute power, he gets afraid of light. Light here means various checks and balances like RTI, social audit mechanism. Lack of light in governance fuels corruption, inefficiency, which is a tragedy of life. But the condition changes when

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
First attempt
at first

We talk about children.

children may be afraid of failure in exams. Such fears may also lead to poor performance. It also shows lack of discipline before exams.

But we should always forgive child.

It is also understandable as child don't have the level of maturity that a man has. Character don't fully develops in a child at young age and that is why one should easily forgive them.

Not only we should forgive them but we should also motivate them to fight darkness. Parents and teachers can act as a role model for a child and mould them into a strong character. Such, strong character would in future not be afraid of dark. So, a child can be forgiven if he is afraid of dark, but it is tragedy if

UPSC

a man is afraid of light. Light has
multifold importance in our lives.

Embracing Light

A man who embraces light in their
lives does self introspection. Self
introspection bring attitudinal changes
in life. Such attitudinal changes
improves the life of ours as well
as others. For example Ashoka
promoted Shamra by accepting light
from Buddhism. It propagated non-
violence and helped making society
a better place.

Embracing light also
means listening to feedback from
others. Such strong feedback mechanism
helps us to become more effective.
For example all the e-commerce

UPSC

companies like Swiggy, zomato asks us for a feedback. Such feedback helps them to continuously adapt and become more efficient.

Embracing light also means seeing the larger picture. Seeing larger picture helps to resolve conflicts. Numerous problem of ethnic conflicts, communal violence can be solved when we understand the larger picture promoted by Buddhism of adopting middle path and avoid extremes.

Lastly, embracing light helps us to rectify our mistakes. It helps us to learn from our own mistake and become successful. Recently it was also seen in Chandrayaan 3 mission, how scientists learnt from their mistakes in Chandrayaan 2 and become successful.

UPSC

But the question arises how to bring light in our lives.

Firstly, as an individual we should do self introspection. This can be done by diary writing, meditation or simply thinking about our life. Such actions help us to become more transparent with ourselves.

Secondly, for a corporate they should have independent directors who can question them. They should also adopt open work culture where anyone can give opinions. Such culture will help the company to grow and embrace light.

Lastly, in an area of good governance, the government

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
Final answer
at the end

should accept criticism. Criticism can come from media critics. Use of mechanism like social audit helps to bring efficiency and light in governance.

Concludingly, we can say that the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of light. It is because such fear leads to stagnation, shows unethical character, promotes old customs which are not relevant, and aids corruption. We may forgive a child for being fearful of darkness as they have lower level of moral development. But a man should always embrace and try to bring light.

India as a country should also accept light if it wants to become global power. It should encourage empowerment of women, transgenders and not put curtain to such issues. This will ultimately promote 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Prayas, Sabka vikas, and Sabka vikas'.

Question No.
1000

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
not assess
at the

Act as if it were impossible to fail

Indian cricket has seen many good cricketers like Sanil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar. They all focused on technique, practice which is needed for success. But, a decade ago comes a player who wanted to dominate, who wanted to make failure impossible. What does he do? He not only acted on his technique, practice sessions. He went ahead. He changed his entire diet regime apart from other conventional things.

This player is 'Virat Kohli'.

In this essay we would learn about what are the features of an action which makes failure impossible. We will also see why is it important to act in a manner to make failure possible. Then we will also understand importance of failure which is inevitable.

UPSC

It is said 'Hard work beats talent, when talent does not work hard'. But in today's era we need to go beyond hard work. We need to keep adapting, have positive mindset, do smart work, and seek continuous improvement. These attributes make us invincible. It helps to make failure impossible.

Kabir says, 'Kaal Kare to Aaj Kare, Aaj Kare So Kab'. It means one should be proactive in his action to make failure impossible. To illustrate, recently we faced flood in North west India. It was due to lack of proactive action. In order to mitigate flood one should act before arrival of monsoon. Thus, being proactive makes us better prepared and help to prevent failure.

UPSC

For
Practice
Use Only
first exam
& file

Sometimes, we also have to change plans or make suitable amendment in actions. Life doesn't happen in a planned manner. So, having flexibility in our process make us more resilient to failure. For example in 2011 WC final, MS Dhoni changed his plan and promoted himself up the order which made all the difference.

But inspite of all the preparations one may fail sometimes. In order to make failure impossible one should learn from mistakes. Recently we saw the success of Chandrayaan 3 mission. What we didnot see was it was a design based on past mistakes. Scientists learnt from their failure in Chandrayaan 2 and made suitable changes like strengthened legs for stability. Such small lessons from past help our action and make failure impossible.

UPSC

In order to keep achieving success we also need to adapt to the changing situation. Acting based on same strategy may not yield success always. Adaptability helps us to become unpredictable and surprise the opponents. To illustrate Indian government has adapted its foreign policy from earlier non alignment to strategic autonomy. It had helped achieved significant breakthrough in technology deals with USA.

But the question arises is adaptability, flexibility, learning from failure, proactiveness in action enough? Are these sufficient ingredient to make failure impossible? The answer is 'No'. One needs to have positive attitude to achieve success. It is rightly

UPSC

said ' Mun Ke Hare Haar Hai, Mun Ke Jete Jete '. It means one wins if he has already won in his mind. Yandiji also says " we become what we think ". Thus having positive attitude is extremely crucial to make it impossible to fail.

But question remains the same, can we ever make sure that failure becomes impossible. And the answer lies in history as well. The 'Great' Alexander failed to conquer entire world. So, it is possible that despite of all ingredients of success in our action we may fail.

Why do we fail?

Life keeps giving us surprises and it is not possible to prepare for all the surprises, even the great winner

Question No.
उत्तर संख्या

UPSC

JK Rowling failed multiple times before achieving success in famous (Harry Potter) series. Steve Jobs was ousted from his own company before he launched 'Apple'. So, we can only control our action and act in a manner as if it were impossible to fail. But, we also need to accept failure if it comes.

Importance of failure

Firstly, failure makes us humble. It helps to become a better person. It prevents narcissistic attitude and helps us to become more empathetic.

Secondly, failure helps to learn more than success. It forces us to innovate and learn something new. For example Thomas

UPSC

Elva Edison learnt everytime when he failed to make a bulb. He learnt numerous ways how not to make a bulb.

Thirdly, failure teaches us to detach from consequence of an action. One should act in a way that it is impossible to fail, but if one fails he should be able to detach from failure and move to try something new.

Lastly, failure in short term helps to achieve success in longer run. It is said 'one who has not failed has not tried enough'. It teaches us the virtue of perseverance and help to bounce back.

Concludingly, we can say that we should act in a positive, hard working, flexible, learning from past, adapting manner

UPSC

to make it impossible to fail.

Apart from these right mindset is also necessary to achieve success.

But infpite of doing everything in right manner, we may fail. In

such circumstances rather than succumbing to failure, we should learn from our mistakes and become better version of ourselves.

India in today's time faces numerous challenges of climate change, conflict in manifold, slow manufacturing growth, challenges of China, Russia - Ukraine in foreign policy. In order

to deal with such challenges we need to start acting. Such actions will lay foundation for better tomorrow and make success inevitable and failure impossible.